

Newsletter

SUN FLOWER

ORNAMENTAL TREES



Ornamental trees are an important part of landscaping. When thriving they make a beautiful contribution to the garden. Adding Ornamental trees to your landscape, whether it is one specimen tree or a grouping of a certain variety, will greatly improve the appearance and value of your property. Trees can create shady spots perfect for a bench or table. They can block winds and add privacy. Depending on the variety they can also add color and interest to your yard. Think about whether you want an evergreen, deciduous or flowering tree.

Once your trees have been selected and planted they will need to be cared for properly. Providing the right amount of water is probably the most crucial maintenance concern when it comes to trees. Most trees require occasional deep watering, but familiarize yourself with your tree's specific needs. Other maintenance considerations include mulching, fertilizing and pruning.

GOLDEN SHOWER TREE (Amaltas)



Cassia fistula, known as the golden shower tree and other names, is a flowering plant in the family Fabaceae, native to southern Asia, from southern Pakistan east through India to Myanmar and south to Sri Lanka. It is associated with the Mullai region of Sangam landscape. It is the national tree of Thailand, and its flower is Thailand's national flower. It is also state flower of Kerala in India and of immense importance amongst Malayali population. It is a popular ornamental plant and is an herbal medicine.



TABEBUIA CHRYSOTRICHA



Tabebuia is widely used as ornamental tree in the tropics in landscaping gardens, public squares, and boulevards due to its impressive and colorful flowering. Many flowers appear on still leafless stems at the end of the dry season, making the floral display more conspicuous. They are useful as honey plants for bees, and are popular with certain hummingbirds.



TABEBUIA PALLIDA

T. Pallida is commonly known as 'White trumpet tree' which belongs to the Bignoniaceae family. This species is similar to the very polymorphic species *T. heterophylla*. Typical specimens have only a single leaflet but some have three leaflets. However the petioles are 4-5 cm long rather than 6-10 cm and they are not pale yellow, nor is the midrib. Flowers are white to pale mauve with a pale yellowish throat. Capsules to 17 cm long and about 1 cm wide, dark lepidote scales are obvious on green fruits. Overall this is a much larger tree than *T. heterophylla* when they are grown under similar conditions.



GULMOHAR

Delonix regia is a species of flowering plant from the Fabaceae family, Caesalpinioideae subfamilia, noted for its fern-like leaves and flamboyant display of flowers. In many tropical parts of countries around the world it is grown as an ornamental tree and in English it is given the name Royal Poinciana or Flamboyant. It is also one of several trees known as Flame tree. Discovered in the early 19th century in its native Madagascar. Gulmohar is a flamboyant tree in flower—some say the world's most colorful tree.



MILLINGTONIA

Millingtonia hortensis, Tree Jasmine or Indian Cork Tree, the sole species in the genus *Millingtonia*, is a tree native to South East Asia. It is known as Akash Malli or Mara Malli in Tamil, Kavuki in Telugu, and Mini Chameli in Hindi, Akash Mallee in Oriya.

The tree grows to height of between 18 to 25 metres and has a spread of 7 to 11 metres. It reaches maturity between 6 to 8 years of age and lives for up to 40 years. It is a versatile tree which can grow in various soil types and climates with a preference for moist climates.

The tree is evergreen and has an elongated pyramidal stem. The soft, yellowish-white wood is brittle and can break under strong gusts of wind.



SATHODEA (AFRICAN TULIP TREE)

This tree is planted extensively as an ornamental tree throughout the tropics and is much appreciated for its very showy reddish-orange or crimson (rarely yellow), campanulate flowers. It has become an invasive species in many tropical areas. The flower buds form a ball-shaped cluster. Each brown banana-shaped flower bud is filled with water, forming a natural water pistol when squeezed. The outer buds bloom first before the inner ones. The tree blooms in the month of August and September and last for a couple of weeks. The ripe pods split open into a woody, boat-shaped form.



PELTOPHORUM PTEROCARPUM (COPPER POD)



Peltophorum pterocarpum ("Copperpod, Golden Flamboyant, Yellow Flamboyant, Yellow Flame Tree, Yellow Poinciana, Perunkonrai) in Tamil, Radhachura in Bangla) is a species of *Peltophorum*, native to tropical southeastern Asia and a popularly ornamental tree grown around the world.

It is a deciduous tree growing to 15–25 m (rarely up to 50 m) tall, with a trunk diameter of up to 1 m. The leaves are bipinnate, 30–60 cm long, with 16–20 pinnae, each pinna with 20–40 oval leaflets 8–25 mm long and 4–10 mm broad. The flowers are yellow, 2.5–4 cm diameter, produced in large compound racemes up to 20 cm long.

The fruit is a pod 5–10 cm long and 2.5 cm broad, red at first, ripening black, and containing one to four seeds. Trees begin to flower after about four years.



ALBIZIA SAMAN (RAIN TREE)



Albizia saman (sometimes treated under the obsolete name *Samanea saman*) is a species of flowering tree in the pea family, Fabaceae, that is native to the Neotropics. Its range extends from Mexico south to Peru and Brazil, but it has been widely introduced to South and Southeast Asia, as well as the Pacific Islands, including Hawaii. Common names include saman, rain tree and monkeypod (see also below). It is often placed in the genus *Samanea*, which by yet other authors is subsumed in *Albizia* entirely.

The tree, called *Samán del Guère* (transcribed *Zamang del Guayre* by von Humboldt) still stands today, and is a Venezuelan national treasure. Just like the dragon tree on Tenerife, the age of the saman in Venezuela is rather indeterminate. As von Humboldt's report makes clear, according to local tradition, it would be older than 500 years today, which is rather outstanding by the genus' standards. It is certain, however, the tree is quite more than 200 years old today, but it is one exceptional individual; even the well-learned von Humboldt could not believe it was actually the same species as the saman trees he knew from the greenhouses at Schönbrunn Castle.



PLUMERIA



Plumeria (common name Frangipani) is a genus of flowering plants of the family that includes Dogbane: the Apocynaceae. It contains 7-8 species of mainly deciduous shrubs and small trees. They are native to Central America, Mexico, the Caribbean, and South America as far south as Brazil but have been spread throughout the world's tropics. Plumeria is related to the Oleander, Nerium oleander, and both possess an irritant, rather similar to that of Euphorbia. Contact with the sap may irritate eyes and skin. Each of the separate species of Plumeria bears differently shaped alternate leaves, with distinct form and growth habits. The leaves of *P. alba* are quite narrow and corrugated, whereas leaves of *P. pudica* have an elongated shape and glossy, dark-green color. *P. pudica* is one of the everblooming types with non-deciduous, evergreen leaves. Another species that retains leaves and flowers in winter is *P. obtusa*; though its common name is "Singapore," it is originally from Colombia.



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